

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

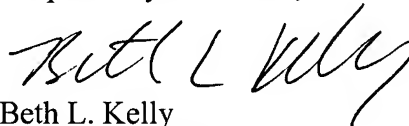
With this amendment, new claims 35-50 are pending. Claims 35-40 are directed to  $\alpha$ -2,3-sialyltransferase polypeptides. Support for these claims are found throughout the specification, for example, at page 8, lines 26-30; at page 16, lines 1-7; and at original claims 3 and 4. Support for fusion proteins is found, for example, at page 18, line 29 through page 19, line 17. Claims 40-50 are directed to methods to add sialic acid residues to acceptor molecules using the polypeptides of claim 35. Support for these claims are found throughout the specification, for example, at page 20, line 20 through page 21, line 2 and original claims 28 through 34. These amendments add no new matter.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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